

Message Text

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PAGE 01 PARIS 29233 01 OF 02 051933Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-07 PRS-01 PA-01 USIA-06 NEA-06 EA-06

FEA-01 AEC-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 CIEP-01 COME-00

DODE-00 FPC-01 H-01 INR-05 INT-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05

OMB-01 PM-03 RSC-01 SAM-01 OES-03 SP-02 SS-15 STR-01

TRSE-00 FRB-01 /100 W

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R 051920Z DEC 74

FM AMEMBASSY PARIS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4883

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY ROME

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION OECD PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 PARIS 29233

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENRG, EEC, FR

SUBJECT: FRENCH VIEWS ON ENERGY AT EC SUMMIT

SUMMARY: GOF WOULD LIKE TO OBTAIN ENDORSEMENT OF
TRIPARTITE ENERGY CONFERENCE AT EC SUMMIT, WITH
ANNOUNCEMENT OF PRELIMINARY MEETING TO BE MADE BEFORE
DECEMBER OPEC MEETING. HOWEVER, OTHER EIGHT ARE
UNWILLING TO DO THIS WITHOUT SOME INDICATION U.S. WILL
GO ALONG. THUS, GOF WILL PROBABLY SETTLE FOR
INCONCLUSIVE GENERAL STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY
QUESTIONS. BASIC DECISIONS ON FRENCH COOPERATION WITH
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PAGE 02 PARIS 29233 01 OF 02 051933Z

INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AGENCY ARE LIKELY TO BE LEFT AT LEAST UNTIL
MARTINIQUE MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. CABOUAT, RESPONSIBLE FOR ENERGY MATTERS UNDER BRUNET, DIRECTOR OF ECONOMIC AFFAIRS, MFA, TOLD ECON/COM MIN THAT SAUVAGNARGUES' PROPOSALS ON EC ENERGY POLICY (PARIS 26886) HAD NOT FARED WELL AT HANDS OF FRANCE'S PARTNERS, WHO WERE UNWILLING TO ENDORSE GISCARD'S PROPOSAL FOR A TRIPARTITE CONFERENCE WITHOUT SOME INDICATION THAT U.S. WOULD GO ALONG. AS MATTERS NOW STAND, THE SECTION ON ENERGY OF THE DRAFT COMMUNIQUE FOR THE EC SUMMIT IS IN TWO PARTS: THE FIRST PART, ON ENERGY POLICY, SETS PRECISE TARGETS FOR CONSERVATION OF ENERGY AND ALSO HAS SOME LANGUAGE ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATIVE SOURCES WHICH CABOUAT DISMISSED AS EMPTY VERBIAGE. THE SECOND PART, ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY POLICY, WAS IN A STATE OF FLUX AT THIS POINT.

2. CABOUAT SAID THERE WERE TWO POSSIBLE FORMULAS FOR AN EC SUMMIT AGREEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY POLICY. THE FIRST WHICH THE GOF WOULD LIKE TO SEE ADOPTED WAS ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES: A) THERE WOULD BE AGREEMENT ON HOLDING A PREPARATORY MEETING TO PREPARE FOR AN EVENTUAL PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THIS MEETING, INCLUDING THE DATE, WOULD BE MADE BEFORE THE OPEC MEETING ON DECEMBER 15 IN ORDER TO HAVE MAXIMUM IMPACT ON THE PRICE DECISIONS TO BE MADE AT THAT MEETING. B) THE COMMUNIQUE WOULD STATE THAT, TO BE SUCCESSFUL, SUCH A CONFERENCE REQUIRED CAREFUL COORDINATION OF CONSUMER POSITIONS AND THAT A CONFERENCE COULD NOT TAKE PLACE UNTIL THIS HAD BEEN COMPLETED. CABOUAT WAS DELIBERATELY VAGUE ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE VIEWS OF FRANCE, AS ONE OF THE PARTICIPANTS IN THE CONFERENCE (THROUGH ITS MEMBERSHIP IN THE EC), WOULD BE CONCERTED WITH THAT OF OTHER INDUSTRIAL CONSUMERS, EXCEPT TO SAY THAT THIS SHOULD BE DONE "IN THE OECD."

3. THE SECOND POSSIBILITY CABOUAT FORESAW WAS A VERY VAGUE GENERAL STATEMENT WHICH WOULD NOT COMMIT THE

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PAGE 03 PARIS 29233 01 OF 02 051933Z

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PAGE 01 PARIS 29233 02 OF 02 051944Z

46

ACTION EUR-12

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 PARIS 29233

COMMUNITY IN ANY WAY PENDING THE OUTCOME OF THE
MARTINIQUE SUMMIT.

4. BECAUSE THE FIRST HYPOTHESIS REQUIRED U.S.
ACQUIESCENCE IN THE FRENCH PROPOSAL FOR A PRODUCER-
CONSUMER CONFERENCE, CABOUAT WAS DUBIOUS THAT IT
WOULD BE ADOPTED -- UNLESS CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT PERSUADED
THE U.S., DURING HIS MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FORD, TO
ACCEPT A COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ALONG THESE GENERAL LINES.
HOWEVER, CABOUAT WAS INCLINED TO BELIEVE THAT THE ISSUE
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PAGE 02 PARIS 29233 02 OF 02 051944Z

BETWEEN THE U.S. AND FRANCE ON THIS QUESTION WOULD NOT
BE JOINED UNTIL GISCARD MET PRESIDENT FORD AT MARTINIQUE
AND THAT THEREFORE THE EC SUMMIT WOULD END UP WITH A

VAGUE AND TEMPORIZING STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ENERGY COOPERATION.

5. OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES TEND TO AGREE WITH CABOUAT THAT THE ENERGY DISCUSSIONS AT THE SUMMIT WILL BE INCONCLUSIVE, CONCEIVABLY NOT GOING BEYOND THE DRAFTING OF GENERAL GUIDELINES FOR THE DECEMBER 17 COUNCIL OF MINISTERS' MEETING ON ENERGY. THE BRITISH ALSO TELL US THAT THE FRENCH ARE BECOMING ANNOYED WITH THE PRESSURE (STRONG FROM THE GERMANS AND DUTCH, MORE SUBTLE FROM THE JAPANESE) WHICH THEY ARE GETTING FROM THEIR FRIENDS TO JOIN THE IEA. THE FRENCH ARE TAKING THE LINE THAT THIS IS NOT AN APPROPRIATE MATTER FOR DISCUSSION AT THE SUMMIT. OUR BRITISH COLLEAGUES BELIEVE THAT GISCARD IS UNDER SEVERE GAULLIST RESTRAINT ON THIS SUBJECT AND THAT HE COULD ACCEPT A MEANINGFUL DEGREE OF ASSOCIATION WITH THE IEA ONLY IF HE RECEIVED SIGNIFICANT CONCESSIONS (PRESUMABLY IN THE FORM OF U.S. ENDORSEMENT OF A PRODUCER-CONSUMER CONFERENCE IN THE NOT TOO DISTANT FUTURE). IT THUS APPEARS INCREASINGLY AS IF THE BASIC DECISION ON WHETHER AND HOW FRANCE WILL PARTICIPATE IN THE INTERNATIONAL ENERGY PROGRAM WILL NOT BE MADE BEFORE THE MARTINIQUE MEETING.

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